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12 May 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: The Comments on Land Panel  
Recommendations Pertinent to a  
Real Time Readout Satellite System

1. I heartily endorse the conclusions and in general support the recommendations that the Land Panel has made concerning a real time readout system that can make information available to the interpretation community

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2. Following are comments which I believe should be considered in such decision-making discussions as may be forthcoming:

a. It is important that any real time readout system have the capability to acquire imagery of almost any specified point within the Sino-Soviet area on a daily basis. This is implied by Dr. Land in his description of capabilities but is not stated directly.

b. In order to have maximum chance of achieving savings across the whole spectrum of intelligence collection, the real time system that is developed should be capable of responding to warning/indications requirements, crisis needs (as described by Dr. Land), world-wide surveillance of such targets as may be required by theater or naval commanders, and routine day-to-day needs for imagery of Bloc targets.

NRO review(s) completed.

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The latter can be considered the bread-and-butter reason for a real time system and perhaps ultimately would prove to be the truly great step forward. Because I believe a real time system should have these multi-purpose capabilities, I feel that a go-ahead decision should include careful consideration of ways and means of incorporating characteristics which would enable it to replace other reconnaissance assets and not merely become an "add-on".

c. I note that the Panel endorses

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exclusion of all others. While I cannot judge this technical choice, I feel it is important to point out that reliability and long life are essential but that there is some disagreement within the R&D community on the as the best way to achieve this.

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3. While the comments expressed above are my own, insofar as they pertain to intelligence requirements, they parallel closely the views of COMIREX.

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Chairman

Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation

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